

11 June 1951

Memorandum for: The Director

From: Legislative Counsel

Subject: The China Lobby

1. On Saturday Secretary of State Acheson stated that he had discussed the possible investigation of the China lobby with the President, and the Secretary was --

"authorized and directed by the President to say to the joint committee that he has instructed the agencies of the executive branch having powers and duties in regard to this matter to get together all their material and bring it together so that there can be an immediate, or as soon as possible, an appraisal of what is known in the executive branch, with a view to going forward to legal action if that is provable by what is known, or by conducting investigations further if that appears to be the proper course to follow, or in making public the situation if that seems to be the proper course.

"He has also authorized me and directed me to say that he will direct all these agencies of the Government to cooperate to the fullest possible extent with any committee or committees of the Congress which wish to go into this matter for the purpose of informing them what is known, for the purpose of helping any investigation, for the purpose of assisting them in coming to a conclusion as to whether or not they wish to have one."

2. In discussing the material available on the China lobby, Secretary Acheson stated that --

"There are reports from other agencies such as the CIA reporting things which have been said to them, and those are sent along to the other agencies of Government, including the State Department."

Enclosure

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3. In view of the above, there will doubtless be requests to CIA for any material we may have regarding the China lobby. This is a controversy which we should try to avoid if possible, but I believe we should make a survey to determine what material we have on this subject and what dissemination it has received.

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